

House Republican Press Release

April 28, 2005
Press Office: 860-240-8700

Bristol Legislative Delegation To Meet With Speaker of the House On Downtown Revitalization Project



Bristol's state legislative delegation will meet with Speaker of the House James A. Amann, D-118th District, Thursday to brief him on the status of the downtown revitalization project and to ensure his support for the initiative.

The Bristol delegation includes state Senator Thomas A. Colapietro, D-31st District; and state Representatives Konstantinos Diamantis, D-79th District, William A. Hamzy, R-78th District, Roger B. Michele, D-77th District, and Elizabeth A. Boukus, D-22nd District.

The city is currently preparing a feasibility study on the \$62 million project, which is expected to include attractive new retail outlets and major cultural and athletic facilities. The city plans to tear down the mall and replace it with a recreation complex that includes a field house, a performing arts theater, a new headquarters for the Bristol Boys and Girls Club and a parking garage.

The city must develop a feasible and viable plan for the project to secure Governor M. Jodi Rell's support for a \$45 million grant to help the city finance the revitalization initiative.

"Once completed, the downtown revitalization project will bring people back to the city's vital center and be a catalyst for renewed economic growth in the area," Representative Hamzy said. "It is an exciting project that has widespread support in the community. Our legislative delegation has played a direct role in planning for the project and obtaining \$5 million in state grants for the initial phases. I'm confident Speaker Amann will be as supportive of the project as we are by the end of the meeting."

"Representative Michele should be commended for arranging this meeting with Speaker Amann," Senator Colapietro said. "The Speaker has been a friend of mine for a number of years, and I'm so pleased that he's seen fit to invest in Bristol's future."